

59 writing prompts for math teachers

Prompts for math journals (assessing disposition)

- My best experience with math was when_____.
- My worst experience with math was when_____.
- I love math because...
- I hate math because_____.
- I want to become better at math so that I_____.
- Is math your favorite subject? Why or why not?
- What did you like most about your math class last year? What did you like the least?
- People who are good at math_____.
- One mathematics activity I really enjoy is _____ because _____.
- When I study for a test, I_____.
- When it comes to math, I find it difficult to_____.
- When I hear someone say math is fun, I_____.
- When I see a word problem, the first thing I do is _____.
- Then I _____.
- Does mathematics or math class scare you in any way?
- Draw a picture of a mathematician and describe what a mathematician does.
- Explain how you feel about mathematics now as compared to before you took this class.

Prompts for learning logs (assessing learning)

- My three personal goals for this term are_____.
- Explain everything you know about _____.
- What is a _____? Write all you can about _____.
- Find something that you learned today that is similar to something you already knew. Write about these similarities.
- How would you use what you learned today in your life?
- The main idea today's lesson was_____.
- Write a definition in your own words of a _____.
- What is the most significant thing you learned this week?
- What questions are still unanswered at the end of this week?
- Last week in math I learned _____.
- My favorite part of math last week was _____.

- The hardest part of math last week was _____.
- This is how I used math this week (outside of school)_____.
- Describe any discoveries you made about mathematics today, this week/month/year.
- Give two examples of situations in which you have used, seen or can find the concept of _____. OUTSIDE of this classroom.
- I want to learn more about _____.
- I wish I knew more about_____.
- I need more help understanding _____.
- My math grade now is _____ because_____.
- What was your grade on the exam/quiz/project? If you were not satisfied with your score, what can you do to improve? If you were happy with your score, what did you do well?
- Write instructions for a (insert grade level here) grader to follow when (adding fractions, finding percentages, calculating averages, etc.)
- How would you describe a _____?
- The difference between_____ and _____ is_____.
- Compare and contrast the terms _____.
- What patterns do you notice in _____.
- You know several ways to_____ (solve an equation, add fractions, etc.) Which method is your favorite? Why?
- Make a list of objects or figures in the room which have _____. How can you tell?
- Write a letter to your teacher explaining what you understand about _____, and what is still giving you trouble.
- Write and solve a word problem whose solution involves _____.
- Describe practical uses for _____.
- Write____ possible test questions for this unit.
- Write a letter to a student who will be taking this class next year, giving some advice about this class.

Prompts to use for problem-solving (assessing process)

- The most important part of solving a problem is_____.
- Describe the process you undertook to solve this problem. (Problem needs to be provided.)

- I knew I was right when_____.
- Tips I would give a friend to solve this problem are_____.
- Could you have found the answer by doing something different? What?
- What strategy did you use to solve this problem and why?
- Was this problem difficult or easy? Why?
- Were you frustrated with this problem? Why or why not?
- Where else could you use this type of problem solving?
- What would happen if you missed a step? Why?
- What other strategies could you use to solve this problem?